

A computational approach for molecular characterization of Covaxin (BBV152) and its ingredients for assessing its efficacy against COVID-19

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Research Article

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Abstract

SARS-CoV-2 vaccination is a life-saving strategy for the entire population living in this pandemic. A dozen vaccines against SARS- CoV-2 were developed and approved for the combat of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, there are many concerns on all vaccines, particularly on the immunogenicity and reactogenicity of vaccines, such as Covaxin. Covaxin (a vaccine code-named BV152), an inactivated COVID-19 vaccine. To address the concern outlined above, we explored the molecular and protein interactions between S protein, angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2), and human serum albumin (HSA) with the ingredients of covaxin along with its drug-likeness property. The Autodock Vina shows stronger interactions of 2-phenoxyethanol, imidazoquinolinone (covaxin ingredients) with virus-cell surface S protein, human cell membrane receptor ACE2, and plasma albumin. The molecular and protein-protein interactions of S protein with ACE2 in the presence of 2-phenoxyethanol and imidazoquinolinone may affect the S protein function by reducing the binding energy between these proteins. Covaxin vaccine showed excellent efficacy in averting the virus and may result in herd immunity. As reported here, imidazoquinolinone, used as an ingredient of covaxin, may have the drug-likeness property based on pharmacokinetic and physicochemical parameters. However, the results should be interpreted with caution as there are limitations such as immune response and adverse effects after vaccination.

Introduction

The prevention of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic disease remains a major international public health priority due to the high infection rate and associated mortality worldwide. COVID19 creates the most significant catastrophe event in humankind in 2020. Despite the use of masks, sanitization, and antiviral drugs, there is a need to develop a vaccine against COVID-19. At the beginning of this year, several vaccines were developed and approved worldwide for the prevention of COVID-19. Several vaccines, including those manufactured by Pfizer, Oxford-AstraZeneca, Covisheild, and Covaxin, have shown superior protection to COVID-19. All these vaccines are approved by the World health organization for human use. The Covaxin (code named as BV152), an inactivated COVID-19 vaccine, was developed and assessed by the Bharat Biotech, India also. The Covaxine showed promising efficacy and immunogenicity towards SARS-CoV-2. The covaxin vaccine is available in a double dose. The manufacturer developed a formulation containing the whole virion inactivated SARS-CoV-2 antigen (strain: NIV-2020-770), adjuvant aluminum hydroxide gel, immunostimulatory imidazoquinolinone, and the preservative 2-phenoxyethanol (2-PE).

SARS-CoV-2 comprises a genome size of ~30 kilobases of different structural and accessory proteins [1, 2]. In coronavirus morphology, there are four structural proteins: membrane (M) protein, spike (S) protein, nucleocapsid (N) protein, and envelope (E) protein [3]. The S protein consists of N exo and C endo terminals. The S1 subunit of the N terminal contains the Receptor Binding Domain (RBD), and the S2 subunit induces membrane fusion. The binding of S1 and S2 subunits causes fusion in the cell membrane, which induces viral invasion into the human cell by attaching to the Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme 2 (ACE2), [4, 5] the coronavirus receptor, can be a specific target to avert viral entry [6].

The above concerns can be understood by a cost-effective and reliable method using computational approaches. The molecular and protein interactions, ligand-based binding affinities for molecules, and drug docking studies can be carried out using available various bioinformatics tools. In order to understand these complex interactions, we have employed computational approaches to study the interaction between the components of covaxin (2-phenoxyethanol and imidazoquinolinone) with HSA, ACE2, and S protein.

Human serum albumin (HSA), a plasma protein, carried various biological molecules to transport several tissues in the circulation. HSA comprises three structural domains, and 17 disulfide bonds protect from aggregation, adsorption, and vaccine ingredients and improve solubility and low immunogenicity. Its physiological functions include maintaining osmotic pressure, anti-inflammation, and transport of plasma molecules [7, 8]. However, the SARS-CoV-2 inhibits the albumin transport by inhibiting the endothelial glycocalyx formation. Therefore, HSA makes it of great interest to investigate how covaxin interacts with imidazoquinolinone, and 2-phenoxyethanol (2-PE), which might modulate the symptoms of COVID-19.

Phenoxyethanol, or 2-phenoxyethanol, is used as a preservative and works against bacteria by decoupling oxidative phosphorylation from respiration and competitively inhibiting malate dehydrogenase. Considering its broad antimicrobial characteristics, this is a highly effective vaccine preservative [9, 10]. However, there are concerns regarding the formulation, safety, tolerability, and immunogenicity of covaxin despite its efficacy. The exact explanation for its efficacy, molecular and structural interaction such as DNA-protein, protein-protein interactions, and structural moieties is unclear.

This study assesses the vaccine covaxin safety, immunogenicity, hesitance, and resistance against the SARS- CoV-2 using a new methodology. We believe that this methodology will help develop future vaccines and other targeted therapies.

Materials And Methods

Sequence analysis

We have retrieved cryo-EM structures of COVID-19 S protein (PDB ID-6vsb), X-Ray crystal structures of ACE2 (PDB ID-1r42), and HSA (PDB ID-1e78) from the PDB database at resolutions of 3.46 Å, 2.2 Å, and 2.6 Å, respectively, which are used for the computational study. Before molecular interaction analysis, the FASTA sequence of the above PDB structures was used to analyze its physicochemical property and secondary structure prediction in ExPASyProtParam and SOPMA programs, respectively.

Investigation of S-protein- ACE2 interaction in the presence of 2-Phenoxyethanol and imidazoquinolinone

A computerized rigid-body docking tool, clusPro 2.0, was used for S protein-ACE2 protein-protein docking analysis in the presence or absence of 2-Phenoxyethanol and imidazoquinolinone. This program aids in the screening of docked conformations for clustering features based on various protein parameters. The

filtered conformations were selected based on empirical estimation of free energy. Free energy was calculated by taking desolvation and electrostatic energies into account. ClusPro is accessible at https://cluspro.bu.edu/publications.php. ClusPro clustering program detects native sites with the help of Piper's rigid docking tool based on FFT [11]. The native site is assumed to possess a wide range of free-energies to draw a more significant number of results. Initially, the sample was taken for about 10⁹ positions of the ligand for the receptor. Only the top 10³ positions were selected among all relative ligand positions corresponding to the receptor.

Molecular docking analysis between ACE2, HSA, and S protein with 2-Phenoxyethanol and imidazoquinolinone

The binding affinities of HSA, ACE2, and S protein with 2-Phenoxyethanol and imidazoquinolinone were evaluated through molecular docking program AutoDock Tools 1.5.6. The canonical SMILES ids of 2-Phenoxyethanol are acquired from the PubChem database (https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/). Imidazoquinolinone molecule is not available in the PubChem database. However, it is structured by using ACD/ChemSketch. CHIMERA 1.11.2 [12] program used for the conversion into 3D structures. The binding affinity of HSA, ACE2 and S protein with 2-Phenoxyethanol and imidazoquinolinone was estimated using AutoDock Vina1.1.2 [13]. The binding sites of the above receptors are used to recognize various parameters such as binding affinity, receptor pocket atom, receptor-interacting atom, atomic contact energy (ACE), receptor-ligand interaction site, and side amino acid residues. Discovery Studio 2017 R2 was analyzed by Client Pictorial depiction of docking results (Dassault Systemes BIOVIA, 2016).

Drug likeliness analysis

Swiss ADME is a comprehensive web-based tool that links physicochemical, pharmacokinetic, and molecular medical chemistry drug-likeliness to determine proficiency. Bioavailability Radar (solubility, size, polarity, lipophilicity, saturation, and flexibility) has been used to determine drug-likeness. For drug development, the analysis of ADME (abstraction, distribution, metabolism, and excretion) is vital. The 2-Phenoxyethanol Canonical SMILES id was retrieved from the PubChem database and predicted ADME properties in Swiss ADME (http://www.swissadme.ch/) was carried out. Similarly, the structure of imidazoquinolinone has been used for ADME prediction. Using the Swiss Target Prediction tool, these two molecules are predicted as effective bioactive macromolecular targets in Homo sapiens.

Results And Discussion

Molecular interactions study

Covaxin is demonstrated to produce antibodies and show a robust response against the COVID-19 virus [16]. It is approved in thirteen countries and shows minimal to no adverse events (https://covid19.trackvaccines.org/vaccines/approved/). However, there are some concerns about tolerability, molecular interactions, and safety. These issues were addressed here using the computational biology approach. The binding and interactions activity of HSA, ACE2, S Protein, and ingredients of the

Covaxin were studied. The molecular interaction study provides the binding affinity of 2-phenoxyethanol, Imidazoguinolinone, S protein, ACE2, and HSA.

The molecular interaction study provided the binding affinity of 2-phenoxyethanol, Imidazoquinolinone, S protein, ACE2, and HSA. Analysis of the binding interactions of 2-Phenoxyethanol, imidazoquinolinone with virus-cell surface protein S protein, human cell membrane receptor ACE2 and drug carrier protein HSA was carried out using the Autodock Vina 1.1.2. The binding energies of the molecular interaction study were determined as Δ Gb-5.3 Kcal/mol and Δ Gb-8.5 Kcal/mol when ACE2 interacts with 2-Phenoxyethanol and imidazoquinolinone, respectively (Figure 1, Figure 2). In contrast, Δ Gb-5.3 Kcal/mol and Δ Gb-9.1 Kcal/mol were the energies, respectively, when HSA interacts with 2-Phenoxyethanol, Imidazoquinolinone (Figure 3, Figure 4). On the contrary, the binding affinities scored to be Δ Gb-5.2 Kcal/mol and Δ Gb-8.5 Kcal/mol when S protein interacts with the above molecules (Figure 5, Figure 6).

The imidazoquinolinone bound S protein through multiple bonds and interactions, including Vander Waal's (Asn317, Ser316, Thr315, Thr761, Thr302, Tyr313, Thr768, Gln314, Asn764, Thr739); Conventional hydrogen bond (Thr302) Pi-Anion (Asp-737) Pi-alkyl (Cys760, Leu303) Alkyl (Arg765) (Figure 6). Imidazoquinolinone engage with ACE2 with Vander Waal's (Ala348, Thr347, Glu402, His401, Trp69); Conventional hydrogen bond (Tyr385); Pi-Pi T-shaped (His378); Pi-Pi stacked (Phe390, Phe40); Pi-alkyl (Arg393); Salt bridge (Asp350, Asp382) (Figure 2). Furthermore, imidazoquinolinone engages with HSA by Van der Waal's (Met123, Phe134, Glu141, Tyr138, Phe157, Gly189, His146, Leu115); Conventional hydrogen bond (Tyr161, Leu185); Pi-sigma (Ile142); Pi-alkyl (Arg186, Lys190); Alkyl (Lys137) (Figure 4).

Similarly, 2-Phenoxyethanol bind with S protein of coronavirus by Van der Waal's (Gln564, Phe565, Val576, Phe543, Leu517, Cys391, Ala522, Leu518, Pro521); Carbon hydrogen bond (Asn544) Conventional Hydrogen Bond (Asn544); Pi-Alkyl (Leu546) (Figure 5), with ACE2 by Van der Waal's (Leu91, Asn210, Lys562, Ala396, Glu564); Carbon hydrogen bond (Pro565); Unfavourable donor (Trp566); Pi-alkyl (Val212, Val209); Pi-sigma (Leu95) and HSA by Van der Waal's (Asn391, Ala449, Leu387, Val433, Phe403, Tyr411); Conventional hydrogen bond (Cys392, Ile388); Pi-sigma (Leu453); Pi-alkyl (Leu430, Leu407) (Figure 1, Figure 3).

From the above molecular interaction data, it was observed that 2-Phenoxyethanol binds with RBD (Receptor Binding Domain) of S protein which spans from 319 amino acids to 591 amino acid residues in S protein [17]. Similarly, imidazoquinolinone strongly interacts with S protein compared to 2-Phenoxyethanol with the proximity of the RBD site. Both compound form hydrogen bonds with S protein which, play an essential role in molecular interaction [18]. The binding affinity and position of the above two compounds suggest that these molecules may cause hindering in S Protein function, which was also reflected in the protein-protein interaction study.

Imidazoquinolinone strongly interacts with the IB domain (Span from 108-196) of HSA with a binding affinity ΔGb -9.1 Kcal/mol, which plays a vital role in drug delivery [7,8]. Similarly, 2-Phenoxyethanol binds with IIIA domain (Span from 384-497) of HSA with a binding affinity ΔGb -5.3 Kcal/mol, an effective drug binding site [19].

The evidence above showed that Covaxin (2-Phenoxyethanol, imidazoquinolinone) ingredients show a robust binding affinity towards ACE2 and S protein HSA (Table 1). Imidazoquinolinone showed the highest affinity with S protein, ACE2, and HSA with energies Δ Gb-8.5 Kcal/mol, Δ Gb -8.5 Kcal/mol, and Δ Gb -9.1 Kcal/mol, respectively.

Protein-protein interaction study

There are 10 top docking models listed on the ClusPro web server with various free energies. A grouping criterion was used based on the overall RMSD [15]. Our study analyzed 5 ClusPro docking models chosen based on S Protein probability, S Protein with 2-Phenoxyethanol, and imidazoquinolinone to engage with the anticipated binding sites ACE2 as well as the lowest binding energy during such interactions. For the S Protein-ACE2 interaction, the average binding energy for all 5 binding sites is -901.2 kJ/mol. Nevertheless, the average binding energy for S Protein-ACE2 in the presence of 2-Phenoxyethanol is -696.64 kJ/mol, and imidazoquinolinone is -589.46 kJ/mol (Figure 7, Figure 8 and Figure 9; Table 2).

Protein-protein interactions are highly specific physical contacts created by electrostatic forces, hydrogen bonding, and hydrophobic interactions between two or more protein molecules [20,21]. An analysis of protein-protein interactions can provide important information about the molecular networks that comprise a living cell [22]. Furthermore, the interaction of protein-protein plays a significant role in predicting the protein activity of molecules that target protein and drug ability [23]. In the presence of 2-Phenoxyethanol, imidazoquinolinone, the binding energy of S protein, ACE2, was reduced during protein-protein interaction. In comparison to direct binding, S protein interaction with ACE2 in 2-phenoxyethanol resulted in a substantial decrease in the binding energy of 204.56 kJ/mol and 311.74 kJ/mol in the presence of Imidazoquinolinone (Figure 7, Figure 8, and Figure 9). As a result, it's possible that 2-phenoxyethanol, or imidazoquinolinone, can prevent the RBD site of S protein from attaching to the ACE2 receptor protein.

Drug likeliness analysis

We investigated the drug-likeness of the lead compounds, which are 2-phenoxyethanol and imidazoquinolinone, using the SwissADME tool. It determined the connection between the molecule's pharmacokinetics and physicochemical properties. The physicochemical properties of 2-Phenoxyethanol ($C_8H_{10}O_2$) were determined, i.e.,138.16 g/mol molecular weight, molar refractivity of 38.90, 10 heavy atoms, 3 rotatable bonds, 2 hydrogen bond acceptors, 1 hydrogen bond donor, and topological polar surface area of 29.46 Ų. Similarly, physicochemical properties for Imidazoquinolinone ($C_{19}H_{21}N_5O$) were determined, i.e.,335.40 g/mol molecular weight, molar refractivity of 100.12, 25 heavy atoms, 2 rotatable bonds, 3 hydrogen bond acceptors, 1 hydrogen bond donor, and topological polar surface area of 66.81 Ų. The average lipophilicity score of 2-Phenoxyethanol iLOGP, XLOGP3, WLOGP, MLOGP, and SILICOS-IT models computes to 1.35. The bioavailability Score of the molecule is 0.55. It has been noted that 2-Phenoxyethanol has very solubility in water. SwissADME uses five distinct criteria to predict drug-likeness (Lipinski, Ghose, Veber, Egan, Muegge). Lipinski, Veber, and Egan obey the drug-likeness property of 2-

Phenoxyethanol, whereas Ghose and Muegge are not. Similarly, for lipophilicity score of Imidazoquinolinone iLOGP, XLOGP3, WLOGP, MLOGP, and SILICOS-IT models compute to 2.27. The bioavailability Score of the molecule is 0.55. It is observed that Imidazoquinolinoneis soluble in water. All 5 models render Imidazoquinolinonecompetent for an adequate drug molecule (Table ST1, ST2). The BOILED-Egg model assumes that 2-phenoxyethanol and imidazoguinolinone can easily pass through the blood-brain barrier and be absorbed by human gastrointestinal absorption (HIA) [23]. Based on the model, the parameters such as lipophilicity, solubility, drug-likeness, and pharmacokinetics that imidazoquinolinone could be a potential drug candidate. The 2-phenoxyethanol's pharmacokinetics and drug-likeness properties have sparked debate about whether it should be considered a drug molecule. Swiss Target prediction, a webserver, plays a central, critical role in identifying ligand-target of known molecules [20,25,26]. It accurately predicts the targets to modulate their behavior, elucidating the molecular mechanism and predicting cross-reactivity in 2D and 3D similarity events with known ligands [27,28]. It also detects potential side effects and assists in the repurposing of molecules for new uses [25,29]. Using the SwissTarget method, 2-phenoxyethanol shows a high predictive performance level of interaction with A G and C G coupled receptors, kinases, enzymes, and nuclear receptors. The major druglikeness targets from this prediction are A G coupled receptors and enzymes. In addition (Fig. SF4), imidazoguinolinone shows a variety of A G and B G coupled receptors, enzymes, and histone-modifying enzymes without affecting the vaccine ingredients' function (Fig. SF3).

Molecular interaction data suggested that imidazoguinolinone had a robust binding affinity compared to 2-Phenoxyethanol, corroborating the protein-protein interaction data. Imidazoguinolinone hinders maximally the S Protein ACE2 interaction as compared to 2-phenoxyethanol. Molecular interaction data also suggest that imidazoguinolinone binds to the RBD site of S Protein which may cause hindering in S Protein-ACE2 complex formation. Protein-protein interactions regulate various biological functions, including cell to cell interactions, metabolic regulation, and developmental control [24]. This could open the door to repurposing/designing appropriate treatment to deter viral penetration using 2-Phenoxyethanol and imidazoguinolinone in vaccine covaxin. A molecule must achieve the target in optimum concentration and be usable in the bioactive form before the necessary biological events arise for it to be an effective drug. The SwissADME technology reduces the time and resources required for drug development. To be considered an oral drug candidate, development products' structural or physicochemical properties must be evaluated for drug-likeness. A molecule's drug-likeness is determined for bioavailability by qualitatively assessing the likelihood of the molecule is to be formed into an oral drug. Bioavailability Radar defines the optimal set of properties like lipophilicity, saturation, scale, polarity, size, and flexibility for the input molecule drug-likeness of 2-phenoxyethanol and Imidazoguinolinone (Fig. SF1, SF2). Most protein targets are predicted using experimentally defined vaccine adjuvants and molecular similarities, according to the study. These adjuvants are effective against virus entry but less effective against biological targets in humans.

Conclusions

This approach delivers satisfying results in molecular interaction, protein-protein interactions, and drug-likeness activities based on the data obtained. It is reasonable to deduce that Covaxiningredients(2-phenoxyethanol, imidazoquinolinone) show strong binding affinity towards ACE2 and S protein and HSA. The molecular and protein interaction of its binding affinity and position of the above two compounds may affect the S Protein function and reduce the binding energy between S Protein and ACE2. The Boiled egg model also proves the compelling drug-likeness property of these compounds in the blood-barrier system. These findings provide a necessary implication that the utilization of 2-Phenoxyethanol and imidazoquinolinone in covaxin in repurposing/design effective therapy to prevent viral entry; however, the approach is successfully demonstrated, a significant limitation in assessing the metabolites involved before and after vaccination using principal variance component analysis by R tool and identifying genes involved blood-barrier system using omics data to show the adverse and immune responses against vaccine in terms of age, race, ethical background, and other parameters. Since several issues remain unaddressed, a future extension is initiated to give a comprehensive understanding of system vaccinology to predict covaxin vaccine immunogenicity and reactogenicity.

Declarations

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Conflict of interests

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

Ethical approval

This research did not require statements of ethical consent or standards of animal care since the study did not use any human or animal subjects.

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Tables



| in- Ligand | Protein- Ligand 2D Interaction | Binding Affinity | Interaction | AA: Name; AA: Chain; AA: No | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| | | (Kcal/mol) | | | |
| tein - 2- oxyethanol | | -5.2 | Vanderwaal | Gln564, Phe565, Val576, Phe543, Leu517, Cys391, Ala522, Leu518, Pro521 | |
| | The second of th | | Carbon hydrogen bond, | Gly545 | |
| | | | Pi donor hydrogen bond | | |
| | | | Conventional hydrogen bond | Asn544 | |
| | | | Pi-alkyl | Leu546 | |
| tein - dazoquinolinone | 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | -8.5 | Vanderwaal | Asn317, Ser316, Thr315, Thr761, Thr302, Tyr313, Thr768, Gln314, Asn764, Thr739 | |
| | The state of the s | | Conventional hydrogen bond | Thr302 | |
| | | | Pi-Anion | Asp-737 | |
| | | | Pi-alkyl | Cys760, Leu303 | |
| | | | Alkyl | Arg765 | |
| - 2-Phenoxyethanol | 0 0 0 | -5.3 | Vanderwaal | Leu91, Asn210,Lys562,Ala396,Glu564 | |
| | The second secon | | Carbon hydrogen bond | Pro565 | |
| | | | Pi-alkyl | Val212,Val209 | |
| | | | Pi-sigma | Leu95 | |
| | | | Unfavourable donor donor | Trp566 | |
| - Imidazoquinolinone | | -8.5 | Vanderwaal | Ala348,Thr347,Glu402, His401,Trp69 | |
| | | | Conventional hydrogen bond | Tyr385 | |
| | I | I Pa | l ge 12/17 | I | |

| | The state of the s | | Pi-alkyl Pi-Pi stacked Pi-Pi T- shaped Salt bridge | Arg393 Phe390,Phe40 His378 Asp350, Asp382 |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2-Phenoxyethanol | 6 6 8 8 8 | -5.3 (IIIA) | Vanderwaal | Asn391,Ala449, Leu387, Val433, Phe403, Tyr411 |
| | The state of the s | | Conventional hydrogen bond | Cys392, Ile388 |
| | | | Pi-sigma | Leu453 |
| | | | Pi-alkyl | Leu430, Leu407 |
| Imidazoquinolinone | | -9.1 (IB) | Vander waal | Met123, Phe134, Glu141, Tyr138, Phe157, Gly189, His146, Leu115 |
| | The state of the s | | Conventional hydrogen bond | Tyr161, Leu185 |
| | | | Pi-sigma | Ile142 |
| | | | Pi-alkyl | Arg186,Lys190 |
| | | | Alkyl | Lys137 |

 $Table-2: Protein-Protein\ interaction\ depicting\ 5\ lowest\ binding\ energy\ for\ S\ Protein-\ ACE2\ complex\ in\ the\ presence\ or\ absence\ of\ Covaxin\ adjuvent.$

| Macromolecule | Binding Positions | Lowest Energy | Average |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | (kJ/mol) | Lowest Energy |
| | | | (kJ/mol) |
| S Protein- ACE2 | 1 | -928.9 | |
| S Protein- ACE2 | 2 | -923 | |
| S Protein- ACE2 | 3 | -902.4 | |
| S Protein- ACE2 | 4 | -853.3 | -901.2 |
| S Protein- ACE2 | 5 | -898.4 | |
| S Protein with 2-Phenoxyethanol- ACE2 | 1 | -733.2 | |
| S Protein with 2-Phenoxyethanol - ACE2 | 2 | -721 | |
| S Protein with 2-Phenoxyethanol - ACE2 | 3 | -701 | |
| S Protein with 2-Phenoxyethanol - ACE2 | 4 | -674 | -696.64 |
| S Protein with 2-Phenoxyethanol - ACE2 | 5 | -654 | |
| S Protein with imidazoquinolinone - ACE2 | 1 | -630.9 | |
| S Protein with imidazoquinolinone - ACE2 | 2 | -605.6 | |
| S Protein with imidazoquinolinone - ACE2 | 3 | -567.8 | |
| | | | |
| S Protein with imidazoquinolinone - ACE2 | 4 | -544.1 | -589.46 |
| | | | |
| S Protein with imidazoquinolinone - ACE2 | 5 | -598.9 | |

Figures

Figure 1

Docked pose of 2-phenoxyethanol in the binding pocket of ACE2. This figure was produced using Discovery Studio Visualizer (http://accelrys.com/products/collaborative-science/biovia-discovery-studio/ visualization-download.php).

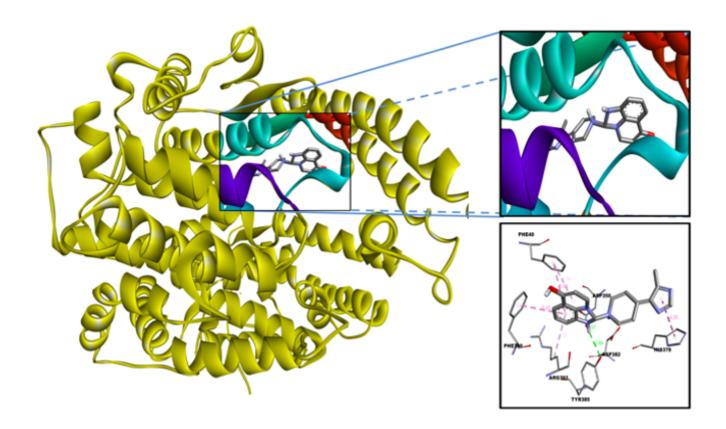


Figure 2

Imidazoquinolinone docked in the binding pocket of ACE2. Discovery Studio Visualizer was used to create this figure. (http://accelrys.com/products/collaborative-science/biovia-discovery-studio/ visualization-download.php).

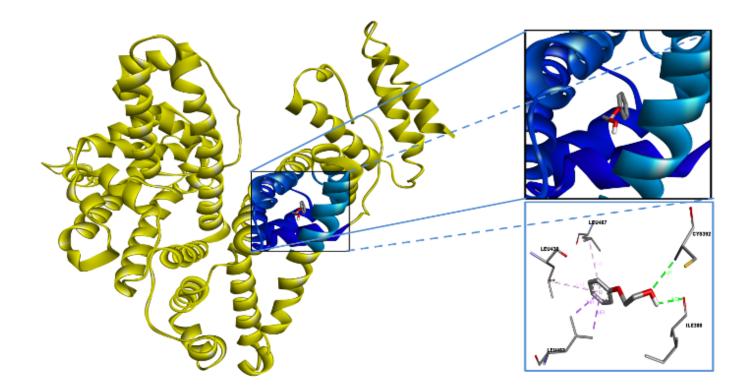


Figure 3

2-phenoxyethanol docked in HSA's binding bag. Discovery Studio Visualizer was used to create this figure. (http://accelrys.com/products/collaborative-science/biovia-discovery-studio/ visualization-download.php).

Figure 4

Imidazoquinolinone in a docked position in HSA's binding pocket. This figure was produced using Discovery Studio Visualizer (http://accelrys.com/products/collaborative-science/biovia-discovery-studio/visualization-download.php).

Figure 5

2- phenoxyethanol docked in the binding pocket of S protein. Discovery studio visualizer was used to build this diagram. (http://accelrys.com/products/collaborative-science/biovia-discovery-studio/ visualization-download.php).

Figure 6

In the binding pocket of S protein, Imidazoquinolinone is docked. Discovery Studio visualizer was used to build this figure. (http://accelrys.com/products/collaborative-science/biovia-discovery-studio/ visualization-download.php).

Figure 7

In the absence of Covaxin-adjuvant, a docked model depicting S protein interaction with the ACE2 receptor.

Figure 8

Docked model depicting interaction of S Protein with ACE2 receptor in the presence of 2-phenoxyethanol.

Figure 9

In the presence of Imidazoquinolinone, the docked model depicts S Protein's interaction with the ACE2 receptor is shown.

Supplementary Files

This is a list of supplementary files associated with this preprint. Click to download.

- GraphicalAbstract.png
- SupplTable1.docx
- SupplTable2.png
- supplfigslegends.docx
- SupplFigure1.png
- SupplFigure2.png
- SupplFigure3.png
- SupplFigure4.png